



Members Announced for Unemployment Reform Blue Ribbon Commission

AUGUSTA – Unemployment Reform Blue Ribbon Commission co-chairs Daniel E. Wathen and George M. Jabar, II. announced today that they had selected the employer and employee representatives to serve on the Commission.

“We’ve put together a great group of experienced people here,” the former Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Court, Daniel Wathen said. “It’s important that we tackle this assignment from the Governor with the right group of people.”

Governor Paul R. LePage issued an Executive Order on May 29th establishing the Blue Ribbon Commission that tasked the designated co-chairs with appointing members that represent the interests of both employers and employees.

The following members have been appointed by the co-chairs: David Walck, owner and franchisee of several Dunkin Donuts restaurants. Shawn Anderson, Chief Operating Officer of Cary Medical Center, Christine Hastedt, Public Policy Director for Maine Equal Justice Partners and Kristin Aiello, Managing Attorney for the Disability Rights Center of Maine.

The Unemployment Reform Blue Ribbon Commission will be holding a public hearing for Mainers to voice their concerns about the consistency and objectivity of the unemployment adjudication process on September 12th in the Transportation Committee Room, Room 126 at the State House.

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The Unemployment Reform Blue Ribbon Commission

Daniel E. Wathen

With 25 years of judicial experience including ten years as Chief Justice of Maine, Dan is an expert in litigation at both the trial and appellate levels. Since rejoining Pierce Atwood in 2002, Dan has developed an extensive mediation and arbitration practice in Maine and throughout the nation and Puerto Rico. His ADR assignments cover the entire spectrum of business litigation, including mergers, securities, insurance, employment, professional malpractice, valuation, public and private construction projects, personal injury and products liability.

Prior to becoming a judge, Dan was a trial lawyer, both civil and criminal, with some emphasis on defense work for insurance companies. He also handled a significant amount of transactional work for state and federal government loan guarantee agencies in connection with industrial and recreational projects.

RECENT EXPERIENCE

- Insurance claims arising from explosion of gas pipeline
- Accounting malpractice claims regarding the sale of tax strategies
- Distribution agreement for medical devices
- Claim of sexual harassment in employment
- Bridge construction dispute
- Personal injury from a swimming accident at a resort

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Dan recently received The Muskie Access to Justice Award for his lifelong commitment to justice for low income and elderly Americans.

Dan is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for ADR, is a panelist for the American Arbitration Association, American Health Lawyers's Association, and is included on the national general counsel panel of distinguished neutrals maintained by CPR: International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Maine Bar Association
American Law Institute
Supreme Court Historical Society
Lawyers Committee of The National Center for State Courts

Former Chair, National Judicial College

Former Vice Chair, The National Center for State Courts and the National Conference of Chief Justices

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Chair, Board of Maine Turnpike Authority, 2011-present

Chair and member, Board of Maine's Community College System 2003-2011

Founding member, Foundation for Maine Community Colleges 2010-present

Board of Trustees, Jobs for Maine's Graduates

Board of Trustees, Old Fort Western

George M. Jabar, II.

George M. Jabar, II, has been a partner in the firm Jabar, Batten, Ringer & LaLiberty since 1982. He graduated from the University of Maine at Orono and received his law degree from the New England School of Law. He is a member of the Maine Bar Association, Maine Trial Lawyers, American Bar Association, and he is a Sustaining Member of the National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives, also known as NOSSCR.

George has served as Kennebec County Commissioner from 1985 through 1997 and from 2001 to the present. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Maine County Commissioners Association where he served as President for the last two years. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Statewide Maine County Risk Pool. He is active in the Boys' and Girls' Club and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors during 1996 and 1997. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Maine Youth Alliance in 1998 and 1999.

George was appointed to the State Board of Corrections by Governor Baldacci and is a liaison to the Judiciary for the Maine Board of Corrections.

He has extensive experience in social security disability claims (of which he has obtained benefits for hundreds of claimants over the last fifteen years). His practice also includes personal injury claims, civil litigation, criminal law, corporate law, and real estate.

Raised in Waterville, George, and his wife, Beth Smiley Jabar, have four children: Mallory - a graduate of Providence College presently living and working in Boston, Justine - a Senior at Boston College majoring in Nursing, Michael - a Freshman at Catholic University in DC majoring in Biomedical Engineering, and Hannah, a Sophomore at Waterville High School. George enjoys tennis, golfing, skiing, boating, and photography.

Shawn Anderson, COO

Shawn Anderson is Chief Operating Officer at Cary Medical Center, a position he assumed in June of 2004. Prior to his appointment at Cary Medical Center, Anderson spent ten years in positions of increasing leadership in education and health care administration. Within the healthcare arena, he has served in the areas of human resources, business development, physician practice management, clinical services administration, and medical staff recruitment and retention. Anderson holds senior administrative oversight responsibilities for numerous Cary departments including: Anesthesia Services, Pharmacy Services, Cardio-Pulmonary Services, Laboratory Services, Nutritional Services, and a host of other Support Service departments. Additionally, he oversees Corporate and Regulatory Compliance and Risk Management for the Medical Center. While at Cary, Anderson received the Pinnacle award for Inspiring Administrator given by the HealthCare Service Excellence Association.

Anderson serves on the Maine State Trauma Advisory Committee, on the Board of Directors for Aroostook Home Health Services and Valley Home Health Services, and as Vice President of the Caribou Economic Growth Council. Further, he is Chairman of the Board for The County Federal Credit Union. He is a member of The American College of Healthcare Executives. As a leader in Maine healthcare, Anderson was selected to participate in the prestigious inaugural class of Maine's statewide Health Leadership Development Program sponsored by the Daniel Hanley Center for Health Leadership and the Institute for Civic Leadership. He now serves on the Board of Directors of the HLD Alumni Association. Shawn is a past-President and a current member of the Caribou Rotary Club, and has served a Board member for the United Way of Aroostook.

Anderson received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Maine at Presque Isle in 1986 and his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Husson College in 1995.

Christine Hastedt

Chris Hastedt is the Public Policy Director, Maine Equal Justice Partners. Christine has been a legal advocate for low-income people for more than 40 years. She has received numerous awards for her work, including the Kutak-Dodds Award from the National Legal Aid and Defenders Association and the Bernard Lown Humanitarian Award from the University of Maine at Orono.

In 1996 Chris co-founded Maine Equal Justice Partners and Maine Equal Justice Project. She is responsible for policy research and analysis, education and outreach, and legislative and administrative advocacy largely in the areas of Medicaid and other public health policy, TANF, Food Stamps, employment law issues, including issues affecting low wage workers.

Prior to founding MEJP, Chris worked for Pine Tree Legal Assistance for 20 years, where she represented low income clients in administrative and legislative proceedings. Chris received a B.A. from the University of Maine in 1968.

David G. Walck

David has been a small business owner in Maine since 1999 and has subsequently opened four other business locations in Maine and one in Virginia. Some of his disciplines encompass execution management, marketing, sales and profitability analyses, strategic planning, new business development, government bidding and contracting, contract negotiations, billing, service, and policy administration.

Currently, David owns and operates Dunkin' Donuts restaurants in Thomaston, and Richmond, VA. He also serves as Chairman of Mid-Maine CPL, a producer of many Dunkin' Donuts products for over 106 locations in Maine and New Hampshire. Mid-Maine CPL has 60 employees and operates 364 days a year.

Kristin Aiello

Kristin Aiello is a managing attorney for Disability Rights Center of Maine, the designated "protection and advocacy" system for people with disabilities in Maine. See <http://www.drcme.org/>. The DRC provides advocacy and representation in a wide range of areas affecting people with disabilities, including working to safeguard the rights of Maine people with disabilities in the workplace and community as well as in housing, education, facilities and institutions.

Kristin leads the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Team at DRC, which includes all employment-related matters. She has been representing people with disabilities in employment and public accommodations discrimination matters at DRC for over ten years. Her practice involves representing individuals in investigative, administrative and court proceedings. Kristin has also previously been engaged in the private practice of law, where she has handled a variety of matters on behalf of individuals.

Kristin is an experienced trainer on discrimination law, including the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Maine Human Rights Act, and has presented to diverse groups including employers, employees, people with disabilities, union members, non-profit companies, the State of Maine, the Maine State Bar Association, law enforcement, and other groups. She is a member of the Maine Employment Lawyers Association and the National Employment Lawyers Association.

Kristin has also successfully advocated for the rights of individuals in the community, including in voting. She was the lead attorney for the plaintiffs in the landmark case *Doe v. Rowe*, 156 F. Supp. 35 (Me. 2001) a seminal ADA voting rights case which was later cited by the United States Supreme Court in *Tennessee v. Lane*, which overturned Maine's constitutional provision which had prohibited individuals under guardianship from voting.

Kristin served as an employee representative in a group appointed by the Maine Legislature to draft an amendment to the definition of disability under the Maine Human Rights Act. The new definition of disability was enacted in 2007, and served as a model for the Americans with Disabilities Act

Amendments of 2008. In addition, Kristin was previously served as a Commissioner on the Maine Human Rights Commission, having been appointed by the Governor in 2007.

Kristin is a graduate of Boston College and University of Maine School of Law. She resides in Hallowell with her husband Walt McKee, also an attorney, and their two daughters.